

1/13/71

Mr. E.L. Johnson, Jr.  
Assistant Administrator for Administration  
General Services Administration  
Washington, D.C. 20405

Dear Mr. Johnson,

This letter relates to my Civil Action No. 7569-70, to the extensive relevant correspondence, and most particularly to Mr. Vawter's letter to me of September 17, 1970. Mr. Vawter's letter was in response to my June 30, 1970 appeal. It was not written until a month after, having heard nothing from this appeal, I filed this action. All of this relates to permission to see and to have photographs of the President's clothing, in evidence before the Warren Commission.

In this suit I am my own lawyer. I have not been able to seek the full rights that I have because of the pressure of other matters and somewhat impaired health. Thus I have not, as I may, moved that this action be set at the head of the docket. During these months I have hoped that the Government would re-examine its position. Its position has been that it refused my request because not to do so would result in sensational or undignified use of the evidence I seek and seek to study. It may not be known to you, but identically the same spurious reason was given for denying me the Kennedy family-GSA letter agreement, which was then made available to a writer of known apocryphatic predisposition, a writer not familiar with the details of the evidence, one who might be assumed to write in a manner congenial to the Government's interpretations.

If you will examine Item "(5)" in Mr. Vawter's letter, you will see that it reads: "permission for you to examine the photographs taken with CBS equipment by the Archives staff." And if you will think of this for a moment, you will understand that what this really says is that, contrary to the representation made to me in order to deny access to this public information to me, that any use would be sensational or undignified, the Archives did, prior to my repeated requests, permit to CBS exactly that which it denies me, permission to examine the clothing, and more than I have requested, the right to use their own equipment in taking the pictures denied me. I asked only for the pictures you already have and for you to take pictures for me with your own equipment.

I realize it is not my obligation to call this to your attention, but unlike the clear record of the Government, I have no desire needlessly to burden the courts, and I do not regard the law as a game to be played, involving whatever tricks a litigant thinks he can get away with. I regard this acknowledgement of having done for CBS - and for the largest possible audience - precisely what it refuses me for my research and writing, which can never reach so vast an audience, the Government has invalidated all of its alleged reasons and eliminated any question of fact.

Because of the delays in this case, not of my requesting, I intend to amend my motions to include this admission by the Government, unless I hear from you immediately that you will honor my requests, in which event I will move for dismissal, the questions then being moot. My phone is listed above.

Sincerely,